



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA TO MEASURE OAT & BARLEY CROPS IN MAINE

Maine's 2000 growing season is well underway. Overall conditions for the 2000 oat and barley crops are good. However, wet and cool weather in April and May delayed planting and put them well behind last year's crops. Growing conditions have been variable throughout the season, with periods of warm, dry weather offset by cool, wet weather at times.

As part of the ongoing effort to monitor crops nationwide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will soon be conducting the annual September Agricultural Survey. This survey is part of a national program to establish official statistics for small grain acreage and production. The study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

In Maine, the September Agricultural Survey will measure acreage, production, and stocks of oats and, for the first time, barley. Approximately 220 Maine growers will be asked for their help as part of this nationwide effort. The selected farmers will be mailed sample questions, and a letter requesting their help. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between August 31 and September 13, 2000.

"Being a nationwide project and considering the small sample size, it is important that Maine farmers participate in the September Agricultural Survey so that the state is clearly represented in this snapshot of American agriculture. Gathering this information from growers is the only way to produce reliable crop estimates that are available to everyone here and across the country," states Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England field office in Concord, New Hampshire. He also notes, "The results of the survey are needed by grower associations, lenders and law-makers to have the facts about agriculture when reviewing farm policies, an important factor in decision making." He emphasized that like all surveys conducted by the Service, individual information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination to establish state and national estimates.

National survey results are released in the *Small Grains Summary* from Washington, D.C. on September 29th at 8:30a.m. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. The statistics are also reprinted in the October issue of the *Ag Review*. The monthly New England *Ag Review* is also available on the Internet, but complimentary copies can be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through E-mail at [NASS-NH@NASS.USDA.GOV](mailto:NASS-NH@NASS.USDA.GOV). All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

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